

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 062891.0389

PATENT
Serial No. 09/635,375

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REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed February 23, 2004. In order to advance prosecution of this case, Applicant amends Claims 1, 14, and 25. Applicant cancels Claims 6, 15, and 22-24 without prejudice or waiver. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of Claims 8-13, 20, 21, and 26-31. Although the Examiner does not explicitly indicate grounds for objecting to Claims 2-7 and 15-17, Applicant assumes that these claims are objected to for depending from rejected independent claims. As a result, it is the Applicant's understanding that Claims 2-7 and 15-17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. If Applicant's understanding of the objection is incorrect, Applicant requests an indication of the Applicant's error and an explanation of the actual grounds for the objection to Claims 2-7 and 15-17.

Thus, Applicant rewrites Claim 1 and 14 to include elements of Claim 6 and 15, respectively, thereby placing Claims 1 and 14 in condition for allowance. Applicant also cancels Claim 6 and 15, thereby obviating the Examiner's rejection of these claims.

Section 102 Rejections

The Examiner rejects Claims 1 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,855,616 issued to Wang et al. ("Wang"). Applicant amends Claims 1 and 25 to include elements of Claim 6 that place Claims 1 and 25

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in condition for allowance based on Applicant's understanding of the objection to Claim 6. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of Claim 1 and its dependents, and Claim 25.

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Section 103 Rejections

The Examiner rejects Claims 14, 18-19, and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,852,630 issued to Langberg et al. ("Langberg"). Applicant amends Claims 14 to include elements of Claim 15 that place Claim 14 in condition for allowance based on Applicant's understanding of the objection to Claim 15. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of Claim 14 and its dependents.

Applicant also cancels Claims 22-24 without disclaimer or waiver, thereby obviating the Examiner's rejection of Claims 22-24.

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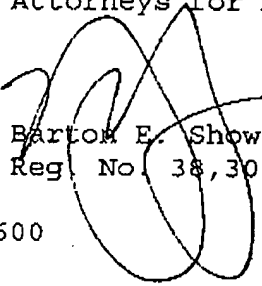
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Conclusions

Applicant has made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of all pending Claims. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the undersigned attorney for Applicant stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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